

### Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-72 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action requires restriction between what are asserted to be six (6) separate and distinct inventions defined in the Office Action as follows:

Group I – Claims 1-10 and 24-39 to a nucleic acid;

Group II – Claims 11-23 and 34-39 to a method of generating a nucleic acid;

Group III – Claims 40-41 to a method of chelating a transition metal ion to a nucleic acid;

Group IV – Claims 42-54 to a method for detecting a protein;

Group V – Claims 55-58 to nucleic acid amplification; and

Group VI – Claims 59-72 to a method for identifying a peptide ligand.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants elect the invention of **Group I**, Claims 1010 and 24-33.

It also appears that the action requires a separate election of species. In response to that requirement, applicants identify the nucleic acid of Example 2 and Figure 1B. It is believed that claims 1-8, 24-27 and 30-33 read on this elected species.

Consideration and formal allowance of the elected claims thus are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 8, 2006

By. 

Joseph M. Skerpon

Registration No. 29,864

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.  
1001 G Street, N.W. - Eleventh Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597  
(202) 824-3000  
JMS/bao